

## ABSTRACT

The invention provides an improved gun for firing a projectile, such as a paint ball. The apparatus comprises a grip and a receiver hingingly attached to the grip, and provides a projection on one of either the grip or the receiver and a retainer fixedly attached to the other of  
5 either the grip or the receiver, so that the projection and the retainer cooperate to selectively engage each other, thereby retaining the grip and the receiver in a fixed relationship. The apparatus further provides a safety retainer associated with the receiver, and a safety projection associated with the grip, whereby the safety retainer and safety projection engage one another when the hammer is in the ready position, and thereby maintain the grip and the receiver in the fixed relationship, regardless of whether the projection and the retainer are engaged. A safety member is also provided which prevents the retainer from disengaging the projection when the hammer is in the ready position, and when the retainer is not in the first position and the hammer is not in the ready position, the safety member blocks the hammer from moving into the ready position. The receiver further defines a valve body integrally formed from the receiver. The invention also provides a process for making a receiver for firing a paintball.